

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (Currently amended) A circuit board ~~comprising, comprising:~~
2 a substrate which includes a specified area of the substrate that is used as a
3 mechanism for provably disabling the circuit board, wherein the mechanism
4 ~~comprising~~comprises:
5 signal means for conducting a signal between the mechanism and the
6 circuit board;
7 separation means for facilitating detachment of the mechanism from the
8 circuit board, wherein the mechanism is configured to be detached by breaking the
9 substrate in the specified area; and
10 identification means for identifying the mechanism;
11 wherein the circuit board becomes at least partly non-functional if the
12 mechanism is detached from the circuit board;
13 ~~wherein after the mechanism has been detached from the circuit board, the~~
14 ~~mechanism cannot be reattached to the circuit board; and~~
15 ~~wherein the only way to detach the mechanism is to detach the mechanism~~
16 ~~from the circuit board so that the mechanism cannot be reattached to the circuit~~
17 ~~board.~~
- 1 2. (Original) The circuit board of claim 1, wherein said signal means
2 comprises a wire trace.

1 3. (Original) The circuit board of claim 1, wherein said separation
2 means comprises one or more gaps between the mechanism and the circuit board.

1 4. (Cancelled)

1 5. (Previously Presented) The circuit board of claim 1, wherein said
2 identification means comprises an identification circuit.

1 6. (Previously Presented) The circuit board of claim 1, wherein said
2 identification means comprises a visible identification code.

1 7. (Previously Presented) The circuit board of claim 1, wherein said
2 identification means is protected from being easily manipulated.

1 8-33. (Cancelled)

1 34. (Currently amended) A circuit board assembly configured for
2 provably disabling the circuit board, the assembly comprising:
3 a circuit board comprising a substrate which includes a specified area of
4 the substrate that is used as a tab, wherein the tab comprises~~having~~:
5 a proximate end connected to the circuit board;
6 a distal end opposite the proximate end; and
7 two opposing sides separated from the assembly by gaps;
8 an identification module situated on the tab; and
9 a signal conductor extending from the circuit board to the tab and
10 configured to convey a signal when the assembly is powered;
11 wherein the tab is configured to be removed by breaking the substrate in
12 the specified area; and

13 wherein removal of the tab at or near the proximate end so as to separate
14 said identification module from the assembly causes the signal conductor on the
15 tab to be decoupled from the signal conductor on the circuit board;
16 ~~wherein after the tab has been detached from the circuit board, the tab~~
17 ~~cannot be reattached to the circuit board; and~~
18 ~~wherein the only way to detach the tab is to detach the tab from the circuit~~
19 ~~board so that the tab cannot be reattached to the circuit board.~~

1 35. (Previously presented) The circuit board assembly of claim 34,
2 wherein the circuit board assembly cannot be powered if the signal conductor on
3 the tab is decoupled from the signal conductor on the circuit board.

1 36. (Previously presented) The circuit board assembly of claim 34,
2 wherein the circuit board becomes at least partially non-functional when the signal
3 conductor on the tab is decoupled from the signal conductor on the circuit board.

1 37. (Previously Presented) The circuit board assembly of claim 34,
2 wherein the identification module comprises a hologram.

1 38. (Previously Presented) The circuit board assembly of claim 34,
2 wherein the identification module comprises a barcode.

1 39. (Previously Presented) The circuit board assembly of claim 34,
2 wherein the identification module comprises a sequence of characters.

1 40. (Previously Presented) The circuit board assembly of claim 34,
2 wherein the identification module comprises a chip.

1 41. (Previously Presented) The circuit board assembly of claim 34,
2 further comprising an integrated circuit connected to the signal conductor.

1 42. (Previously Presented) The circuit board assembly of claim 34,
2 wherein the signal conductor does not extend to the distal end of the tab.

1 43. (Currently amended) A circuit board assembly comprising:
2 a substrate which includes:
3 a signal conductor; and
4 a specified area of the substrate that is used as a key,
5 wherein the key is removably connected to the circuit board
6 assembly and wherein the key comprisingcomprises:
7 an identification module; and
8 a portion of said signal conductor;
9 wherein the key is configured to be removed by breaking the substrate in
10 the specified area;
11 wherein while said key is removably connected to the circuit board
12 assembly a plurality of gaps are defined between the circuit board assembly and
13 said key; and
14 wherein removal of the key from the circuit board assembly causes said
15 portion of the signal conductor on the key to be decoupled from the signal
16 conductor on the circuit board assembly;
17 ~~wherein after the key has been detached from the circuit board assembly,~~
18 ~~the key cannot be reattached to the circuit board assembly; and~~
19 ~~wherein the only way to detach the key is to detach the key from the circuit~~
20 ~~board assembly so that the key cannot be reattached to the circuit board assembly.~~

1 44. (Currently amended) A circuit board ~~comprising~~comprising:

2 a substrate which includes a specified area of the substrate that is used as a
3 key, wherein the key is removably connected to the circuit board, and wherein the
4 key ~~comprising~~comprises:

5 a portion of a signal conductor configured to conduct a signal between the
6 key and the circuit board; and

7 an identification module configured to identify the key;

8 wherein the key is configured to be removed by breaking the substrate in
9 the specified area;

10 wherein the key is removably connected to a first portion of the circuit
11 board but is separated from other portions of the circuit board by a plurality of
12 gaps;

13 wherein the gaps facilitate detachment of the key from the circuit board;

14 and

15 wherein one or more functions of the circuit board become at least partly
16 non-functional, including conduction of a signal by the signal conductor, if the
17 key is detached from the circuit board;

18 ~~wherein after the key has been detached from the circuit board, the key~~
19 ~~cannot be reattached to the circuit board; and~~

20 ~~wherein the only way to detach the key is to detach the key from the circuit~~
21 ~~board so that the key cannot be reattached to the circuit board.~~